

FROM THE HEART OF THE DANUBE

September 2002

Design Inspiration

The ensemble was created for the Heartfelt Sewing Contest. The word “heartfelt” triggered a childhood memory of a beautiful applique vest featuring Hungarian felt cutwork that was a gift from my aunt. In order to follow the theme of the contest, I adapted traditional Hungarian cutwork designs to feature heart-shaped motifs instead of the usual roundels, but I used traditional ideas for the placement of borders and motifs. The final design blends a modern garment with traditional embellishments and showcases the timeless beauty of Hungarian needlework techniques.

Fabrics

Cape, hat and muff: pure wool coating.

Embellishments

Cape, hat and muff: pure wool felt.

Patterns

Cape: Marfy 8405.

Hat: Pattern Studio HP218.

Muff: Vogue 7353

Special Sewing Techniques

For the large and small motifs, the design outlines are transferred to a lightweight fusible interfacing, which is fused to the wrong side of the garments. The felt appliques are applied in a piece large enough to cover the whole motif. The design is free motion stitched from the outline on the wrong side. The unwanted parts of the design are then cut away with small, sharp scissors. The borders are stitched with a multi-step zig-zag stitch, and the excess felt is cut away as for the motifs. Border embellishments are cut with a wave-cutter and applied with a double needle. Small embroidered hearts also appear on the border as a subtle embellishment. Decorative closures for the cape are made from felt and a decorative cord with tassels ties the at the collar.

Exhibitions and Awards

Grand Prize Winner, Heartfelt – Art From the Heart – Sewing Contest, October 2002.

2nd place, Full Ensemble, Mid-Atlantic Wearable Art Festival X, February 2004.